

# THE EUGENICS REVIEW

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# PERIODICALS

## Human Genetics

**December 1949, Vol. 1, No. 2.—***Suicide in twins and only children.*—By F. J. Kallmann, J. De Porte, E. De Porte and L. Feingold.—There were eight monozygotic twin pairs in this study, one member of each pair having committed suicide. None of the eight surviving twins killed themselves although their mean survival period was nearly eight years. The sixteen dizygotic pairs were also all discordant, although the mean survival time here was nearly seventeen years. The authors conclude that successful suicide cannot be simply explained by a certain type of personality and genetic constitution.

In a sample of 296 cases of suicide the proportion of only children did not differ significantly from that expected according to an indirect estimate of the proportion of only children in the general population.

*Heredity of the Rh blood types.*—By A. S. Wiener, E. B. Gordon and L. Handman.—The authors present a new series of 200 families analysed for ABO MN and Rh blood types. All the bloods were tested with anti-Rh<sub>0</sub> (anti-D), anti-rh' (anti-C), anti-rh" (anti-E) and anti-hr' (anti-c) sera; most were tested with anti-hr" (anti-e) serum, while the last forty-six families were also tested with anti-rh" (anti-C\*) serum. There was only one exception to the theory of inheritance of the Rh blood types, a child possessing the rh" (E) factor when mother was type rh (cde cde) and father Rh<sub>1</sub> rh (CDe cde), it is suggested that this child was illegitimate. There were no exceptions for the ABO blood groups or MN types.

*Blood types of Brazilian Indians (Matto Grosso).*—By F. Ottensooser and R. Pasqualin.—All the individuals tested, 371, belonged to group O. Of 134 individuals tested for MN types 106 belonged to group M; this proportion, 79.9 per cent, has only been exceeded in an investigation of East Greenlanders. All 210 individuals tested for Rhesus type reacted with anti-Rh<sub>0</sub> (anti-D) serum. These individuals were also tested with anti-rh' (anti-C) and anti-rh" (anti-E); 19.3 per cent did not react with anti-rh' (anti-C) and 22.7 per cent did not react with anti-rh" (anti-E). Twelve individuals who reacted both with anti-rh' (anti-C) and anti-rh" (anti-E) were tested with anti-hr' (anti-c), one of these reacted.

Taking other investigations into account it is probable that the genetic unit r (cde) does not exist in Mexican Indians. The authors argue that besides genetic units R<sup>1</sup> (CDe) and R<sup>2</sup> (cDE) there must be an appreciable amount (about 8 per cent) of R\* (CDE) but little if any R<sup>0</sup> (cDe) and conclude that their findings do not support the crossing-over hypothesis of Fisher.

*Consanguineous matings in Japan.*—By J. V. Neel, M. Kodani, R. Brewer and R. C. Anderson.—In 1948 and 1949 a system of voluntary pregnancy registration was in force throughout Japan. As soon as the fifth month had been reached a pregnant woman was entitled upon registration to receive certain rationed items. Because of the economic stringencies obtaining in Japan during this period registration was relatively complete. There was superimposed on this registration a special questionnaire in three cities concerning consanguinity in the towns of Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Kure. For first-cousin marriages the rates were 3.7 per cent, 4.1 per cent and 5.24 per cent respectively. Special surveys of Kyushu Island published by Japanese authors show rates of more than 10 per cent in some villages. This consanguinity rate is much higher than any previously reported for any large population.

Assuming a rate of 0.06 for the proportion of first-cousin marriages in Japan, it is shown that estimations of the gene frequencies for a number of recessive conditions are in fair agreement with those made in Europe.

*Turner's syndrome and status Bonnevie-Ullrich.*—By O. Ullrich.—In 1932 Bonnevie showed that the widespread and variable malformations in the "my" mouse were due to blebs of cerebro-spinal fluid migrating under the skin from the neck region. In 1936 Professor Ullrich suggested that certain malformations in humans could be explained in the same way, particularly those including asymmetrical congenital absence of muscles and congenital brain stem nuclear aplasias. Since then various authors have applied the theory rather widely. Professor Ullrich argues that Turner's syndrome, characterized by pterygium colli, dwarfism, dystrophic nails, cubitus valgus, hypoplasia of the nipples and deep-set ears cannot be explained in this way on account of the symmetry and constancy of the malformations.

Professor Ullrich notes that no good evidence exists for the genetic determination of either Turner's syndrome or the true status Bonnevie-Ullrich.

C. O. C.

## Human Biology

**Vol. 22, No. 2.—***Statistical models bearing on the semantics of correlation. Expectation-accomplishment models.*—By L. Hogben and K. W. Kemp.—The last of three papers analysing the notion of "analysis of variance".

*The urinary keto-steroid output of naval submarine enlisted candidates during two stressful situations.*—By E. B. Cook and R. J. Wherry.—The amount of

17-keto-steroid increase during stress is considered a reliable measure of individual differences in response to stress.

*On a generalization of the Behrens-Fisher problem.*—By J. E. Walsh.—A statistical study of the problem of testing the difference of the medians (means) of two normal populations, when the ratio of the variances of the populations is unknown.

*An application of gene frequency analysis to the interpretation of data from twins.*—By D. C. Rife.—Methods of gene frequency analysis for two types of interaction between heredity and environment in twins are given.

*Sexual growth of Negro and white boys.*—By G. V. Ramsey.—Thirty-seven Negro males aged 11-16 years, and 286 white boys of 10-20 (85 per cent 12-16) were interviewed personally. The median age reported for first ejaculation by both Negroes and whites was 13.8 years; for first appearance of pubic hair 13.3 and 13.6 respectively; for first recognition of voice change 13.7 and 13.4.

S. A. B.

## The International Journal of Sexology

**August 1950, Vol. IV, No. 1.**—The journal is now entering its fourth year, and the editor has taken the opportunity to review the difficulties and complications that have arisen and the manner

in which they have been overcome. Some of the difficulties were inherent in the attempt to make the subject acceptable, and others were those unavoidable when a journal is international in range.

On pages 41 and 42 an account is given of the pre-marital and marriage counselling work being carried out in various countries: Czechoslovakia, Spain, Denmark and India are referred to—later issues will review other countries. It is sad to learn that in India there is no governmental pre-marital nor marriage counselling at all.

*Sex education.*—W. A. Osborne.—Osborne contrasts the two divergent types of sexual instruction of boys and girls, which might be named the puritan and the enlightened. He is of the opinion that while girls remain strangely ignorant, boys have acquired a surprisingly detailed knowledge. The dangers of "instruction" by inadequately trained teachers are rightly stressed particularly by those, self-appointed, who are themselves sexually vitiated.

It is often forgotten that many of those long past the mid-teen age are in need of sex education—for example the husband in the forties whose partner has lost youthful sex-appeal—the women at the climacteric and the elderly man with prostatic irritation.

D. R.-R.

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# FROM THE PRESS CUTTINGS

## **Immigration**

### *Australia*

A new phase of the Australian Government's migration plans was opened in the United Kingdom recently. Aided passages to Australia have hitherto been restricted to persons nominated by friends and relatives or by employers in the Commonwealth, but now the Australian Government itself will nominate 20,000 single persons and 5,200 families to whom it will offer early passages with accommodation and employment on arrival.

The selection of married men with families, some with up to four children, will be limited for the time being to certain skilled tradesmen, including blacksmiths, boilermakers, moulders, toolmakers, fitters and turners, metal machinists, panel beaters, pattern-makers, carpenters, tilers and experienced brickyard workers. Plasterers, plumbers, and experienced farm workers will be considered as married tradesmen, taking their wives with them. Single men and women in almost every occupation are also needed.

Since general emigration to the Commonwealth began in March 1947 over 87,000 persons have left the United Kingdom for Australia, and 21,000 of them have gone in the last six months. Apart from the Commonwealth Government's nominations, State Governments are nominating about 1,000 single persons a month, and Australian employers are willing to nominate over 5,000 men and women for many different occupations. From January to June this year over 3,000 people applied for passages under employers' nominations, and more than 2,000 have already been accepted and have sailed or are booked for early passages. Mr. N. W. Lamidey, chief migration officer at Australia House, said that the aim is to take out 70,000 people from the United Kingdom this year.<sup>1</sup>

### *New Zealand*

Mr. W. J. Jordan, High Commissioner for New Zealand, has told the Royal Alfred Merchant Seamen's Society of proposals made by the trustees of the New Zealand Sheepowners' Fund, whom he met during a recent visit to the Dominion.

It is the wish of the trustees, besides carrying on a scheme for training boys in farming, to help financially the sons and daughters of seamen of either the Royal Navy or the merchant navy or airmen who lost their lives or were disabled in the second world war. Their desire is to give help with higher education, training for trades and professions and otherwise to advance the best interests of the beneficiaries.

The more immediate concern of the trustees of the fund, which includes in its title the words "Acknowledgment of Debt to British Seamen," is, however, to fulfil the part they take in arranging

annually for fifteen boys, sons of seamen and airmen killed or disabled in the war, to be trained in farming in New Zealand. Last year they arranged for fourteen boys to go. The training begins in May each year, and so far only five applications have been received by the Royal Alfred Merchant Seamen's Society, which acts for the fund in the preliminary stages, for the course which will start in New Zealand next May.

The boys must be between 15 and 17 years of age. They are provided with kit and with passages to New Zealand.<sup>2</sup>

### *Canada*

Fewer people are emigrating from Britain to Canada, according to statistics issued in Ottawa, and the Government is sponsoring new measures to increase immigration generally. Special attention is being paid to encouraging the flow from Britain.

Nearly 377,000 persons have entered Canada since the war ended, and of these more than 163,000 came from Britain. The number from Britain reached its peak in 1946, when more than 51,000, including many war brides, were admitted. The total fell to about 22,000 last year. For the first five months of this year more than 5,000 came from Britain, compared with more than 10,000 in the corresponding period of last year.

Mr. Harris, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, indicated that immigration from Britain was being encouraged by every means possible. Among the problems which were affecting immigration were restrictions imposed by most countries on the export of capital. At the moment, he said, the British authorities were giving consideration to the amount of capital an immigrant may take out during his first year as a settler. He believed that if more money could be made available to immigrants Canada would again become their first choice among the Commonwealth countries.

The Canadian Government, he said, intended to expand its facilities in Britain for dealing with immigrants and the headquarters in London were in the process of reorganization. In the near future the Canadian authorities hoped to provide free medical examination, including X-ray, to immigrants in certain areas of the British Isles.<sup>3</sup>

### **Parental Influence**

At the conference of the National Association for Maternity and Child Welfare at Friends House, Euston Road, London, N.W.1, Dr. John Bowlby, of the Tavistock Clinic, spoke on the important question, "The Parents' Influence for Good or Bad." For good or for bad, he said, parents were indispensable. On the whole, and after careful consideration, he considered that most parents had a beneficial effect on their children. But parents needed to be taught to do their job better. They

could be helped by accurate and honest information on what to expect from children at different ages, and on behaviour difficulties. Bad parents, who mismanaged their children during their second and third years, were responsible for a large proportion of mental ill health in later years. But bad parents themselves called for understanding treatment, as almost all were found to be suffering from the effects of their own unhappy childhoods.<sup>4</sup>

### Race

The Honorary Secretary, Royal Anthropological Institute, in a letter to *The Times*, said: May I, on behalf of the Royal Anthropological Institute, refer to the important "Statement by Experts on Race Problems," published by Unesco and summarized in your issue of July 18th? Inquiries made by this institute since then among leading British physical

anthropologists show that, while there is general agreement with its main thesis—that there is no scientific justification for racial discrimination—many or most anthropologists consider controversial a number of incidental statements made in the document. It is felt that the inclusion of views based on insufficient evidence in a document of this kind does less than justice to the great cause itself and to the unanimity with which all reputable anthropologists could agree upon the essential points which need to be reiterated if science is to make its proper contribution to the abatement of racialism.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *The Times*, July 6th, 1950; <sup>2</sup> *The Times*, August 1st, 1950; <sup>3</sup> *The Times*, July 5th, 1950; <sup>4</sup> *Times Educational Supplement*, July 7th, 1950; <sup>5</sup> *The Times*, August 15th, 1950.

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